



NEXT MEETING - The Annual Film/Video Show

The traditional way for our Society to start the new year is to present a film show; this year is no exception and a video film brought home by Charles, G0GJS from his visit down under will be the main feature of the evening. The title of the video is "Kiwi Country - New Zealand" a professionally made film of the resources of this wonderful country.

Time permitting we also have a cartoon film to provide a light hearted end to the meeting. We look forward to greeting you all on Tuesday 5th January at 7.30pm in the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 5 Jan. CLUB MEETING - The Annual Film/Video Show.
- 2 Feb. CLUB MEETING - Packet Radio - John, G6JPG.
- 7 Feb. SOUTH ESSEX ARS RADIO RALLY - Canvey Is.
- 21 Feb. EAST COAST AR&C RALLY - Clacton-on-Sea.
- 27 Feb. RAINHAM RADIO RALLY - Gillingham, Kent.
- 2 Mar. CLUB MEETING - History of Radar - Stan Woods.

LAST MONTHS MEETING - John, G8DET.

Within the Club we are fortunate to have a number of Members who have considerable experience and are good enough to share this with others. The December meeting at Arbour Lane was an opportunity to look at the work of and to listen to Fred, G2HNF, on the subject of 'Test Equipment for the Shack'. Fred started the evening by reminding his large audience that as Radio Amateurs we are privileged to be able to communicate with others in distant lands. As such we are "self certificated"; this means we have to conduct ourselves with a high degree of responsibility and not cause interference to other radio users. To do this we must have some basic Test Equipment that enables us to determine transmitted power, correct frequency and absence of spurious signals.

With this as the theme Fred produced a range of well made items in fabricated aluminium, diecast and polished wood boxes (often with the circuit diagram inside for future reference). Fred prefers analogue displays for anything where max: or min: is to be read. He also described his method of making off UR67 with a sleeve of gummed paper to hold the polythene in shape while soldering the braid through two holes in the PL259.

The first requirement for a serious constructor is a 10 Mohm FET Voltmeter, this was described in Dec. 86 PW and used a CA3140.

To measure Capacitors, Fred uses a Tester with 2 ranges, based on the RSGB book Test Equipment for the Radio Amateur, Section 7.6, to improve the scale he changed TR1 to 2N2222 & TR2 to BFY50, making it an emitter follower with 180 ohm emitter resistor and coupling with C2 at .001uf.

To check secondhand PNP & NPN transistors a Tester was shown from the Mullard Transistor, Audio & Radio Circuit book, page 180.

To produce stable audio frequencies, a Wein Bridge oscillator was built from the same book, page 177 but with bandspreading to ease frequency selection.

The next item discussed was the scope - if you buy secondhand, remember to obtain the handbook.

Other items shown and described included an Absorption Wavemeter, a Dummy Load - flat to 400Mhz, an Impedance Bridge with wide range Kalitron RF Oscillator, a Reflectometer using 15mm copper water pipe and strip lines as per RSGB VHF/UHF Manual by Jessop and a 2 Tone Tester for SSB based on the circuit from 1988 ARRL Handbook, Section 25.27.

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THE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL 1992 - Ela, G6HKM

This year the weather was kind to us, no FOG so we were full house, 29 in all. The "William Boosey" had changed management since our 1991 event, so there was a little anxiety as to how good the new management would be, however this was soon dispelled as the whole place was alive with activity and the car park full which is always a good sign.

We were in a different dining area, which was a little bigger with slightly more elbow room! The menu was good, a nice selection of starters and deserts, if the noise of chatter was anything to go by I think it can be said that everybody enjoyed themselves. Our thanks to Harry, G2HPF for arranging the evening.

THE CONCORD EXPERIENCE



On Tuesday 15th December your editors achieved a long standing ambition by flying in a British Airways Concorde for a day trip to Paris. This was arranged by their Son and Daughter as a surprise present to mark their Ruby wedding anniversary.

The day began at 5.30am with an early morning awakening at the Sheraton Skyline hotel for a "Coffee Assembly" in the lounge before the short coach ride to terminal 4 at Heathrow.

Following some "help yourself" coffee and sandwiches in the Concorde Lounge we embarked on the slender plane for the most exhilarating flight out over the Bay of Biscay at 52000ft and the speed at MACH 2 (1,350mph) while consuming a champagne brunch to arrive at Charles de Gaulle Airport 1 hour, 40 minutes later.

The day in Paris comprised a comfortable 3 hour coach tour of the city, 3 hours to browse the city centre shops and restaurants, a 2 hour Seine River Cruise on a Bateau Mouche and a scheduled flight on a British Airways Boeing 767 to London Heathrow, there to be met by our taxi for the return to Great Waltham at midnight.

Although it had been an 18½ hour day, we enjoyed every minute of it You should try the "Experience" some time.

MEMBERS NEWS - Ela, G6HKM

The Society extends a welcome to a new member, Roland Martin, a SWL from Chelmsford.

OOPS - Who can't count?

Those of you who use word processors will recognise the trap that can catch out even the most alert editor when copying a layout to save time and effort.

It was brought to my attention (with a dig in the ribs) that both the November and December Newsletters were Issue Number 322; sorry folks!, we are now back on the rails again, having corrected the masters with the aid of counting the fingers on both hands.

LAST MONTHS MEETING - (continued)

All the Test Equipment shown would enable virtually any other item to be constructed - the unit which had taken a lot of effort was the Noise Bridge. There are 3 different approaches:- Cambridge, MFJ's and Fred's which uses a PNP emitter/base junction as a noise diode. The beauty of the Noise Bridge being that you check the aerial at it's operational frequency without causing interference or burning your fingers! Another use is for checking Baluns.

Fred commented that many published designs did not work as suggested and often needed extensive modification.

Mince Pies and Sausage Rolls were enjoyed during the break when Fred demonstrated some of the items and dealt with individual questions from members.

In proposing a vote of thanks for a superb evening, Roy G3PMX said that he agreed with many of the comments made and would like to take-up Fred's offer of a lecture on "Metal working".

DF News - Dick, G3WHR - The Mid-Essex Trophy

The Mid-Essex Trophy is a two station event using RSGB Qualifying rules. This year the hidden station operators were Mike Hawkins and Alan Williams.

The start was at Long Melford, with Pat Hawkins as official starter. There was a good turn out from Chelmsford and Colchester, as well as George Whenham who had driven down from Coventry.

We heard two good signals from the hidden stations, with bearings to the SE and SW, the teams divided evenly - 4 to each transmitter.

I chose to find Alan first. Two further bearings took me to Toppesfield and a copse with aerial wire going all round the edge, connected to an earth stake at one point, so I investigated the area diametrically opposite and thought I could hear Alan's voice. I found an old branch and used it as a cudgel with good effect in clearing a path through the thorns, causing Alan some concern. After crawling in and having my form signed, I was half way out before I remembered my camera and returned for a quick photograph. The second fight out was not so much against the thorns but against the other teams going in.

All roads lead to Sudbury, where a mistake in navigating the town centre diversion cost me some time. I remembered that the Hadleigh Railway Walk was a good df site, but this time the bearings passed further South. I obtained a good cross from the 4.00 transmission, then found I had overshot the best road and had to retrace my path. While stopped at a road junction for the 4.15 transmission I was passed by Andrew - very disconcerting, but I still had to wait for a bearing. Then I got a good fix on a footpath near Little Wenham church and my car was soon parked alongside several df cars. Time was running out, a fast run up the path, following some footprints, I found Mike well concealed under the roots of a fallen tree.

While we were busy hunting, Pat had turned our Bring-a-Bite tea into a real feast which was much appreciated by all competitors. There were the usual tales of what might have been, if only -. Our visitor now knew the standard of Essex local events - Tough, well the National Champion only finds one station. For the second year running the operators watches had to be compared before the result could be confirmed, and this year the Trophy and the wine - are mine.

Results.	1 Dick Brocks	1503	1627.20
	2 Peter Larbalestier	1628	1504
	3 Roy Emeny	1506	1629
	4 George Whenham	1629	1516
	5=Andrew Mead	1507	1630
	5=Peter Graves	1509	1630
	7 Andy Collett	1539	
	8 Philip Cunningham	1610	

COMMITTEE MEETING

The January Committee meeting will be held in the Telford Lodge at 7.45pm on Wednesday 13th Jan, you are most welcome to join us.

RSGB INTERNATIONAL HF & IOTA CONVENTION

Continued from last month, the report by Charles, G0GJS.

The highlight of the weekend was the DX Dinner which was attended by over 200 DXers and their wives. Many presentations were made including one to the overseas visitor who had experienced the most difficult journey in getting to the Convention. It was won by Irina the XYL of a member of the UA9OBA team who travelled to Moscow from Novosibirsk for a £1, or should I say 435 roubles. I guess I played a major part in financing their journey when I bought an attractive Russian produced WAZ wall chart for a £1! The Russian team brought a pile of IRCs with them some going back to 1960 and were overjoyed when a local friendly Anglo Indian sub-postmaster converted them into a £150 cash. They wouldn't spend the money here saying that it would pay for two DXpeditions; apparently you can hire a helicopter in Russia for £8. I can remember visiting Moscow and paying three shillings and four pence (40 kopeks) for a lemon - what a crazy world! I was particularly pleased when John Kaye G3AAE won the DXCC tiebreak; he was the only DXer still on his feet when 670 DXCC countries were called and I know that he has worked 676. John was responsible for introducing me to amateur radio and encouraging me to become licensed.

Sunday saw the HF Convention taking off. A ladies programme which my wife joined took the XYLs and YLs on a tour of Runnymede, Ascot, Saville Gardens and local places of interest which had not been covered the previous day when they visited Windsor. At Beaumont three streams of presentations were operating and in addition to exhibits demonstrating computer applications (Turbolog, Shacklog, Super-Duper and Antenna Design), the latest equipment from major HF equipment manufacturers and DX Cluster Packet, an FT1000 rig was operating SSB/CW with the callsign GB1OTA. On the front lawn of Beaumont an 80' Versa tower supported a very impressive HF beam antenna array. I am sure Warren Hastings would have approved, it didn't look out of place!

The presentations were "Building Your Own Linear", "Use and Abuse of Towers", "How to Win NFD", "HF Transceivers - How Far Have we Come" by Peter Hart who does the equipment reviews for RADCOM, "EMC - Good Radio Housekeeping", "Contest Forum", "DX Packet Cluster", "Home brew HF Equipment", "HF DX - The Inside Story, The Survey Results", "DXpeditions - Pacific Islands Andy G4ZVJ, South Sandwich Terry W6MKB, Indian Ocean Doug 4S0UK, Clipperton Island Vincent G0LMX".

More next month - Ed.

PLEASE READ THIS !

It is important that we leave the College Lecture Room as we find it, therefore, if you assist in moving furniture, especially chairs from other rooms, please either return to original position or note on the blackboard the room inventory.

BRING AND BUY

A suggestion by a club member to the committee that it would be useful to have an extension to the annual junk sale in the form of a "Bring and Buy" table at each meeting. For an experimental period we will provide this facility. The usual 10% commission on transactions to club funds will apply (except for high values when a reduced commission will be accepted) and vendors must be responsible for the safety of their sale items.

A Very Happy and Prosperous
New Year to all our readers
73 from Roy & Ela Martyr, G3PMX & G6HKM

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